

L. Camilleri

TO THE

MAGISTRATES,

THE

MILITARY,

AND THE

YEOMANRY

OF

IRELAND.

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M. P. for Lismore*

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TO THE
MAGISTRATES, THE MILITARY,
AND THE
YEOMANRY OF IRELAND.

AS a noble Lord in another country, has grossly defamed and calumniated you, by asserting that you drove the *innocent* and peaceable inhabitants of this Island into Rebellion, by treating them with singular barbarity and cruelty, in enforcing the Insurrection Law, and in obeying the mandates of the present Parliament, and the Government, for that purpose; and, as some seditious persons, the admirers and followers of his Lordship, make a practice of asserting, that your cruel and inhuman conduct has been the sole cause of the disturbances, which have been so disgraceful to Ireland; and as such men do so merely for the purpose of dishonouring you, and of inflaming the people, I would recommend to you, and to every good subject, to carry in his pocket the following

A chronological

chronological statement of facts, and to produce it when such assertions are made, which will prove the falsity of them, and that the disturbances existed here four years before Lord Camden arrived in Ireland, and six years before the Insurrection Law passed.

I am, Gentlemen,

your obedient servant,

CAMILLUS.

1791.

In consequence of various affrays and tumultuous meetings in the county of Armagh, the Sheriff and Grand Jury, at the Summer Assizes of that county, entered into the following Resolutions, " That on taking the state of the country into consideration, they are very much alarmed at the tumultuous meeting of the lower class of people, and the rage that prevailed among them, for illegally arming themselves ;" and they offer very high rewards to such persons as shall discover and prosecute them.

January 30th.—A party of Defenders forcibly entered the house of Mr. Barclay, of Forkill, in the county of Armagh, and butchered him and his family with savage cruelty. They cut off the breasts and the calves of the legs of Mrs. Barclay, and

and cut out her tongue, though she was a beautiful young woman, and had never offended them. They served her brother much in the same manner. They died of their wounds. They cut off the tip of Mr. Barclay's tongue, and otherwise barbarously abused him. When he appeared in court to prosecute, his inarticulate utterance, and the woeful appearance which he made altogether, drew tears from every person present.

In the month of *February*, a number of Defenders, well armed, forcibly entered the house of Mr. Fagan, of Loughagar, near Mullingar, and after having wounded him and his wife, they robbed him of cash and various valuable articles, to the amount of 600l.

October 20th.—The house of Mr. Abraham Haynes, of Crossbarry, in the county of Cork, was attacked by about 300 men, well armed, who fired many shots into it, and wounded his son.

1792.

May 3d.—The sum of 600l. was collected at Coleraine for the use of the French, by a Revolutionary Club, which constantly corresponded with the Government of France.

9th.—There was an accommodation between the Defenders and Peep-of-day-Boys, after a warfare of some months.

October 9th.—The United Irishmen assembled in Dublin declare as follows :—"Associated on the principles of *humanity, and zealous for her rights*, we view, with generous indignation, the combi-

nation of *despots* to keep her in degradation. Whether those *despots* be decorated with *diadems*, or the petty tyrants of the country assembled in a *jury room*, their principles and object are the same in themselves, *and by us equally detested.*" Time has taught us how far the United Robbers and Assassins were associated on the principles of *humanity*. We are not surprised that they should detest Kings and Juries, because they checked their avidity for plunder and confiscation, and brought many of them to the gallows.

December 25th.—Newtown, the seat of Mr. M'Clintock, in the county of Louth, was attacked by a numerous body of Defenders, who fired many shots into it.

In the autumn and winter of this year, so many barbarous outrages were committed in the county of Louth, that at the Spring Assizes following, held at Dundalk, 21 Defenders were sentenced to die, 25 to be transported, 12 to be imprisoned a certain time, for having conspired to murder different persons; 13, indicted for murder, put off their trials, and Bench Warrants issued against 80 persons who absconded.

Early this year a party of Rebels, who styled themselves National Guards, and who endeavoured in every respect to assimilate to those at Paris, having green uniforms, were arrayed and disciplined in Dublin, under two traitors, who, conscious of their treasonable designs and practices, have since fled from the vengeance of the law. The device on their buttons was a Harp with

with a Cap of Liberty, instead of a Crown. It appeared that these two rebellious Chieftains were deeply concerned in the plot of the Rev. Mr. Jackson, who went to Ireland accredited as Ambassador from the French Government, in the year 1794. This shews how deeply rooted treason was at so early a period, and that it assumed a bold and menacing aspect.

1793.

January 8th.—A large mob of Defenders assembled at Woodford, in the county of Galway, declared they would pay no more taxes, and swore numbers of people to be true to them and their cause.

January 30th.—A numerous body of them well armed, attacked a detachment of the 41st regiment when on their march, near Peter's-ville, in the County of Meath, and had a severe conflict with them; the Presbyterians joined the King's troops.—About the same time, a large party of Defenders wantonly assaulted a company of the same regiment between Manor-Hamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon, in the County of Leitrim, and destroyed their baggage, though they were ultimately repulsed.

February.—A detachment of the 8th regiment was attacked by a large body of them at Athboy, near Kells, in the county of Meath.

February.—A body of them attempted to carry off four pieces of cannon from Garretstown, but were prevented by the Volunteers of Ardeath.

February

February 12th.—Numerous parties of them committed dreadful outrages in the Barony of Innishowen and County of Donnegall, such as burning houses, destroying corn, extorting money and writing threatening letters.

February 13th.—A large body of them well mounted and armed, attacked and entered the house of Mr. Mark Cassidy of Derry, in the county of Monaghan, at midnight, and robbed him of his arms, cash, plate, and other various articles of great value.—They in great numbers attacked the King's troops at Ardee, who killed seven, and took a great number of them.—At this time the people of that town were so much afraid of being massacred by them, that they and the magistrates kept guard by night for a long time.

February 15th.—A numerous body of delegates, chosen in different districts in the province of Ulster, assembled at Dungannon, and assumed the function of legislators. They determined on totally altering the frame of the Constitution, and resolved also, that a committee should be authorized to communicate with the other provinces of the kingdom, at that important crisis, to form a National Convention at a future day.

February 2.—Eight Defenders were arrested at the Naul by Justice Graham, and among the papers of their leader Joseph Corbally, a list of 66 persons was found, who had enrolled themselves as Defenders.

February

February 11.—The Attorney General moved the Court of King's Bench for informations against Archibald Hamilton Rowan and Napper Tandy, for a deep-laid conspiracy to raise sedition.

The outrages committed by the Defenders were so frequent and so violent, that on

February 13th, a Proclamation issued, offering a reward of 100*l.* to any person who would discover and prosecute to conviction any of them not already in custody. This sufficiently proves how bold and how numerous these miscreants were at so early a period.

March 29th.—Napper Tandy was indicted at the assizes of Dundalk, for having distributed seditious hand-bills to encourage the people of the County of Louth, then much infested by Defenders, to rise; but conscious that there were strong charges for high treason against him, he forfeited his recognizance, and has never since appeared in Ireland.

May 28th.—A large party of them, after committing various outrages at Boyle in the county of Roscommon, attacked a body of the King's troops who killed 19 of them.—About this time, there was a general rising of them in the counties of Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, and Roscommon. They plundered the following houses of ammunition and arms: Captain Ormsby's of Castledangan, Mr. Johnson's of Addersaid, and his son's, and Captain Carter's of Drumlease. They entirely destroyed the house and furniture of Mr. Tennison of Coleville, valued at 6000*l.* They robbed the
house

house of Mr. Cooper, Member for the County of Sligo, of 50 musquets, broke his windows, and drank or spilled all the liquor in his cellars.

June 28th.—A body of insurgents burned the house of Mr. Wilson of Castlecomer, and assassinated Mrs. Wilson, as she was endeavouring to make her escape from the flames.

July 15th.—About 3000 rebels marched to attack the town of Wexford, and the brave Major Vallaton was killed at the head of a party of his regiment, which he led forth in defence of it.

July 15th.—A large mob of people riotously assembled near Limerick, had an engagement with a party of the 38th regiment, who were obliged to fire, and killed some of them; however, they afterwards burned the house of Mr. Oliver, an active Magistrate, who had exerted himself in quelling them.

July 24th.—Great numbers were convicted of violent outrages as Defenders, at Roscommon Assizes. Many of them were convicted at Dundalk about this time, for burning some houses, and plundering others of arms. About this time a party of the King's troops commanded by Capt. Forbes, at Bruff, were treacherously fired on from the windows of the houses, while on parade.

July 24th.—At Roscommon Assizes, several persons were convicted of having committed various crimes as Defenders.

At Dundalk, Michael Clark for having, with others, burned the house of Christopher Jenny, Esq: of Park, was condemned to die; and many other

other persons received the like sentence, for having forcibly taken arms out of houses in the night.

August 16th.—Lord Westmorland in his speech to both houses of Parliament, said, “ the spirit of discontent which prevailed among the lower orders of the people at the beginning of this Session, has since burst into acts of riot and insurrection, so that I have been under the painful necessity of employing his Majesty’s forces, whose steadiness and good conduct have, on all occasions been manifested.” Can we give a stronger indication of the turbulent spirit of these rebels at this very early period; and can it be in any way imputed to Lord Camden’s administration?

October 20th.—The houses of Mr. Moore of Ballintree, and of Mr. Tyrrell of Strokestown, County of Meath, were entered in the night, and plundered of arms and many valuable articles.

This year the Rev. and amiable Mr. Butler, Chaplain to the Bishop of Meath, was assassinated at his Lordship’s gate.

1794.

February 25th.—Numerous bodies of Insurgents assembled between Dunmanway and Bandon, in the County of Cork, and swore several persons not to pay taxes, and to obey Captain Right; and they even threatened to storm the town of Bandon.

March

March 13th and 14th.—They assembled again, and assumed the office of Legislators; and had the boldness to attack and to disperse a number of Police-men, attended by a Magistrate, after having wounded some of them. They had the audacity to attack a party of the Carlow Militia; and they wounded a Magistrate while reading the riot act.

March 17th.—At the Assizes of Dundalk, many persons were convicted of a appearing in arms in the night as Defenders: and of administering and taking unlawful oaths.

April 10th.—At the Assizes of Sligo, many persons were convicted of similar offences.—This year at Drumsna, in the County of Leitrim, nine Police-men fled into a house from a mob of Insurgents, who set fire to the house and murdered all the Police-men, as they endeavoured to escape from the flames.

May 12th.—The Defenders were guilty of insurrections and outrages little short of rebellion. At Kilnaleek, in the County of Cavan and the neighbouring country, they were three days under arms. They laid waste a large tract of the Bishop of Meath's estate, having first plundered and then burned many of his tenants houses.—The Royal Dublin Militia, assisted by some Presbyterians, pursued them to Ballynaugh, which town they took possession of, and fired on the King's troops from the windows: at last the Militia were obliged to burn the town to dislodge them.

August

August.—This month the Defenders committed many outrages and robberies in the County of Leitrim; they robbed the houses of a Mr. Halfpenny and a Mr. Lloyd of arms and many valuable effects, and in doing so murdered a private of the Loyal Greys.

About this time, 10,000 Defenders assembled on the mountain of Slievebaune, in the County of Roscommon, and sent a detachment of 2000 of their party to burn the house and offices of Mr. Mills, at Ballinfad, which they accomplished. They afterwards had a battle with the 18th Dragoons.—They paid great respect to a portrait of Ravallac who murdered that amiable Monarch Henry the IVth of France, which was in the house of Mr. Mills. It may seem singular that a mob composed of the rabble should know who Ravallac was, but this is easily accounted for; as one of their leaders who was shot, was very well dressed and had a gold watch and a considerable sum of money in his purse, but it never was discovered who he was.

December.—The house of Mr. Swift, at Claron, in the County of Westmeath, was attacked by the Defenders, who abused his person, broke his windows, and deprived him of his arms.

1795.

In the summer and autumn of this year, the county of Armagh was much agitated by the Defenders and Orangemen, and great numbers were killed in the conflicts which took place between them. The former had an encampment four miles from

from Armagh in which they erected a standard with a flag.

March 21st.—At Carrickmacross a private of the Galway Militia was murdered by three Defenders.

March 25th.—The house of Mr. Grattan, of Bensfort, county of Meath, was attacked by a party of Defenders, who broke into the hall, but were repulsed by him and his servants. A short time before, during his absence, they forcibly entered it, and carried off some plate, some fire-arms and other valuable articles.

March 31st.—As the Lord Chancellor was returning from the Castle to his house, he was assaulted by a numerous mob of rebels, who having conspired to murder him, were assembling all that evening. They almost demolished his Lordship's coach, and he received a blow of a stone in the face, which gave him a severe contusion. These wretches, who were United Irishmen, have had peculiar hatred towards him, because he has for about fifteen years displayed singular wisdom and intrepidity in keeping down that ferocious spirit, which has appeared in the shape of various revolutionary factions in Ireland, which would have been ruined, but for his Lordship's extraordinary and seasonable exertions.

May.—This month, near Sligo, between two and three thousand Defenders had the temerity to attack a company of the Derry Militia, who repelled the attack after having killed 30 and taken many of the insurgents.

May.

May —About the same time a numerous body of them assaulted a company of the Tyrone Militia, quartered at Tuam, who in their defence killed 18, took and wounded a great number of them.

June 22d.—A party of Defenders broke into the house of Coote Molloy, Esq. near Boyle, in the county of Roscommon, but his son having shot one of them dead in the hall, the remainder fled; he also wounded another who turned approver.

During the summer of this year, the counties of Meath, Westmeath and Kildare, were dreadfully agitated. In short, most of the respectable inhabitants of them were obliged to keep soldiers in their houses for their protection. Mr. Thomas Ryan, a Magistrate of the county of Kildare, when returning to his house, after having assisted at the committal of some Defenders, was waylaid and surrounded by a large number of these ruffians, who fired several shots at him, and gave him a severe wound in the temple.

The house of Mr. Lillè, near Castlepollard, county of Meath, was attempted by a numerous body of them; but after a gallant defence he repulsed them.

June 4th.—They attacked the house of Mr. Murdock, of Heathstown, county of Westmeath, and robbed it of arms. Four of them were soon after taken and condemned to be hanged on the evidence of one Sommers his servant. The night before

before the execution the Defenders assassinated Sommers.

July.—William Finlay, of Ginnetts, in the county of Kildare, Esq. was fired at in mid-day, while walking in his demesne, and the ball lodged in his arm.

In the county of Meath, the house of the Rev. Mr. Knipe was attacked in the night by a large body of Defenders. In his defence he killed one of them. In revenge, they afterwards murdered him, and mangled his body with savage barbarity.

August.—A body of them attacked the house of Mr. Sterne Tighe, of Carrick, in the county of Meath, but after many shots fired on both sides they fled. Soon after they plundered the house of Mr. Monaghan, of Castletown-Delvin, of arms. The same night a number of houses were attempted, several cows were houghed, and other damages were done.

The house of the Solicitor General at Cabragh, and those of Messrs. Finegan and Christie, near Glasmanogue, were plundered of arms, by many persons, who announced themselves to be county of Cavan Defenders.

In the neighbourhood of Finglas, the houses of Mr. Rowe, and many others, were plundered of arms.

The house of the Rev. Mr. M'Allister, near Summer-hill, county of Meath, was robbed by the Defenders of money and arms. Near Slane, many cows and bullocks were houghed by them. In East Meath, many outrages too numerous to

mention

mention were committed ; where improving in cruelty, they often cut off the udders of cows.

Mr. Talbot's house in the Park was robbed of arms.

August 4th.—They attacked the house of Mr. Pentland, of Hollywoodrath, and because he refused to surrender his arms, they burned his hay and corn.

5th.—Not satisfied with houghing eleven cows the property of Mr. Read, near Old Castle, they burned to the ground his house and offices ; and this because he prosecuted two ruffians for burglary and felony.

A body of them burned to ashes the house and furniture of Mr. Peter Brady, of Mace-town, county of Meath.

James Weldon, convicted as a Defender of a dark and dangerous conspiracy, and of many treasonable acts, was hanged.

September.—Many houses were forced and plundered, and various outrages committed near Drogheda, and in the county of Meath,

The house of Mr. Walsh, who keeps flour mills near Drogheda, was forced and robbed of arms.

That of Mr. Taylor, who keeps the Black Lion, was attacked, but after a vigorous defence the Defenders fled.

They forcibly entered the house of Mrs. Fullam, near Navan, and because she mildly reasoned with them on the impropriety of their conduct, they shot off the roof of her skull.

The same banditti attacked the house of one Mullins, who alarmed his neighbours, and seized one of them.

They forcibly entered the house of Mr. Walsh, near Swords, took his arms, and made him swear the Defenders oath.

The houses of Sir Henry Wilkinfon, of Corballis, near Swords, and of Alderman Lynam, near Rickadstown, were forced in the night and plundered of arms.

Some time in the year 1795, the United Irishmen enlisted under their banners the Presbyterians, who had been previously hostile to the Defenders, who were without exception of the Popish persuasion. They then united both these sectaries, who from that time have been denominated United Irishmen.

1796.

In the autumn of this year, before the Insurrection Law passed, the Defenders seized arms, and committed various other depredations within a quarter of a mile of the city of Dublin.

January 2d.—The House of Mr. Harman, member for the county of Longford, at Bawn, in said county, was entered in the night by thirteen ruffians, who barbarously murdered him.

16th.—A party of them forcibly entered the house of Dennis Raymond, of Wyanstown, Esq. beat and wounded him, and carried off various articles of value.

February 29th.—Ten persons were convicted of a conspiracy to murder John Hanlon, a private in
the

the Royal Irish Artillery, because he was to prosecute, as a witness, some persons who were guilty of Defenderism and High Treason.

March 11th.—Eight persons were convicted of Defenderism at Naas, and in the course of the trial it appeared, that they had been guilty of High Treason.

Three persons of O'Connor's Club pleaded guilty to an indictment for High Treason.

12th—At Mullingar eight persons were convicted of capital crimes as Defenders.

April 15th.—At Monaghan, three Defenders were convicted of having fired many shots into the house of Mr. George Bell ; and James Moan, a Defender, of having recruited men to fight against the Orangemen.—At Armagh, four men were convicted as White Boys.—W. Hynes was indicted at Kilmainham, for having administered the Defenders oath.

July 20th.—At Down Assizes six Defenders were convicted of murder.

August 8.—At Trim, one Traynor, a Defender, was convicted of High Treason. At this time, two men of the name of Connolly and Kearney were murdered between Luttrellstown and Dunboyne ; and their bodies were mangled with savage barbarity. The former had been a witness on some trials, and was soon to have prosecuted a party of Defenders, who had attacked the house of Mr. Falkiner of Abbots-town ; the other was an inoffensive old man, who had not interfered against them.

August 16.—Fifty convicts, three-fourths of them Defenders, were shipped for Botany Bay.

18th.—At Carrickfergus, James Levingston was convicted of publishing a most daring libel, entitled Liberty and Equality, in which he excited the people to plant the Tree of Liberty.

October 17th.—A man of the name of M'Bride, who was obnoxious to the Defenders, was shot in the streets of Belfast.—I will now appeal to the candour of the reader, whether it was not necessary to increase the severity of the criminal laws; and the energy of the Executive Magistrates, as the former state of them was found insufficient during a period of six years, to protect the King's peaceable subjects, and to subdue a ferocious and sanguinary spirit, which would have disgraced the Tartars or Saracens. This has been frequently done on extraordinary emergencies by the English nation, who surpass all European States in criminal jurisprudence, as much as they excel them in all those arts, which are materially necessary to improve and adorn civil life. That Statute called the Stabbing Act, 1. Jac. 1. c. 8. was enacted to meet the pressure of the occasion. The 22d and 23d Car. 2. c. 1. called the Coventry Act, was enacted to prevent the barbarous practice of maiming or disfiguring any person, which had at that time occurred. But that which resembles most the insurrection law, is the 9th of Geo. 1. c. 22. commonly called the Waltham Black Act, occasioned by the cruelties and devastation

vastation committed in Hampshire, by persons in disguise or with their faces blackened. They wrote threatening letters in order to extort money. In the night, they in large bodies forced houses, and plundered them not only of money, but even of furniture and wearing apparel. They fired at people while peaceably sitting at their fire-sides. At that time there were no persons so absurd as to think *of conciliating them*; though they did not equal the United Irishmen in savage barbarity. The penalties ordained by that law were very severe: they were enforced in a summary manner; and on reading the history and the law reports of that period, we shall find, that those who pursued and detected the perpetrators of such horrid crimes, paid much less regard to Judicial forms in punishing them, than you do towards the United robbers and assassins of the present day. I beg leave to observe, that the insurrection law is perfectly inoperative; and cannot be enforced in any county or district, unless the Magistrates, convinced of the urgent necessity of introducing it, call on the Lord Lieutenant and the Privy Council to do so, according to a prescribed form. This should silence the clamours of the disaffected against Government. The first time the insurrection law was enforced, occurred 24th October, 1796, in the county of Armagh, when 25 Magistrates of that County signified by memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, that certain Parishes in it were in a state of disturbance, and should therefore be proclaimed. I beseech

you

you my good friends, to spurn at the officious interference in the concerns of your country, of a set of mercenary politicians in the Senate of a neighbouring kingdom. After having exhausted every expedient which the malice of disappointed ambition could devise, to supplant its present Ministers, they try to wound them, by fomenting the disturbances of this unfortunate island: they are a set of Alchymists who regard it as a crucible, in which they hope to convert their base materials (which would not pass current elsewhere) into gold, imitating the example of their coadjutor, Mr. Grattan, in the year 1782, when he acquired by such means the sum of 50,000*l*. As fire was a necessary agent in their operations, and the flame must be kept alive, they sent a certain noble Lord here for that purpose; but as he had aspired to be at the head of those political chemists, it seems very extraordinary that he should condescend to act the part of bellows-blower for them. He came here fraught with pity for the sufferings of the poor *innocent* people, and with an intention of relieving them, like Anacharsis Cloots, the friend and orator of the human race, *gentis humanæ custos atque pater*. He could no more believe that the innocent sons of St. Patrick, *long famed for piety and loyalty*, could be guilty of treasonable conspiracies, or outrages, than those active citizens, his coadjutors, the D—s of N—k and B—, Horne Tooke, Hardy, Thelwall, F—x and S—n, could suspect the people of England; and for this obvious

obvious reason, that they estimated the virtue of others, by the *untainted innocence of their own hearts*. In a certain assembly, he produced a budget, containing an account of their grievances; but it was very fortunate that he (from very good motives no doubt) refrained from opening it; because had he done so, a blast would have issued from it, which would have turned every thing topsy turvy, and have occasioned as many evils as the opening of *Pandora's box*. It reminds me of that bag of adverse wind which Æolus gave to Ulysses, and which if he had not kept shut, would have produced incalculable mischief.

*Ni faciat, maria ac terras, calumque profundum,
Quippe ferant rapidi secum, verrantque per auras.*

The short stay he made here, and the little success his mission was attended with, reminds me of a remark made in Holy writ, "*That a Prophet has little honor in his own country.*"

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,

CAMILLUS.



